



COUNTY OF LOUDOUN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
www.loudoun.gov/clerk



Gary M. Clemens, Clerk

Black History Month Moment

from the Clerk's Historic Records Team

We typically recognize and honor Black History Month each year in the Clerk's Office by hosting an educational program but due to the coronavirus pandemic we are offering a virtual program through our website during the month of February. Each week, we will post some information and images of court records that share some of the history relevant to Black History Month during the month of February. Our posting this week shares information found among our historic records collections related to African American residents voting for the first time in Loudoun County. We hope you enjoy reading and viewing this information.

1902 Register of Colored Voters, Lenah Precinct, Broad Run Magisterial District

In 1867, African American males voted for the first time in Virginia when military governor John Schofield (1831-1906) ordered a referendum pertaining to the possibility of a new state constitution. The 1870 ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, which prohibited states from denying men suffrage on the basis of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, garnered little public support from Virginia's white voters. An 1870 Act of the Virginia Assembly provided for a "general registration of all male citizens of twenty-one years, citizens of the United States, resident of the state one year, of the county or city, three months" but noted that the "list of voters, white and colored, shall be kept in separate books."

The List of Colored Voters Registered at Lenah Precinct in Broad Run District, Loudoun County, Virginia contains the names of African American voters who had registered in 1902. This record provides the name, age, length of residence in county and state, occupation, town of residence, and whether or not the individual had been transferred from or to another voting district. The various occupations cited by those who had registered included broom maker, carpenter, farmer, farmhand, groomsman, laborer, minister, and stonemason.

The number of black voters registered steadily declined during the 1890s through the early 1900s. Historians and scholars cite a variety of reasons why this may have been the case and there are numerous articles written on the subject related to voter disfranchisement among African Americans.**

SOURCES:

Guild, June Purcell. Black Laws of Virginia: A Summary of the Legislative Acts of Virginia concerning Negroes from Earliest Times to the Present, Lovettsville, VA, 1995 (V REF 348.755 GUI).

Register of Colored Voters at Lenah Precinct, Broad Run District, Loudoun County, Virginia 1902, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Department of Historic Records, Leesburg, VA.

Register of Colored Voters at Purcellville Precinct, Jefferson District, Loudoun County, Virginia 1888-1901 (OM 006), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

**Tarter, Brent. Encyclopedia Virginia, Disfranchisement, <http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Disfranchisement>.

Roll of * *Colored* Voters

Registered at *Leeah* Precinct

in *Broad Run* Magisterial District

Landover County, Virginia.

White or Colored.*

Virginia

To-WIT:

We the undersigned members of the Board of Registrars for Broad Run
Magisterial District in the County of Sproudown do hereby certify that the foregoing
is a true Roll of Voters in Senah Precinct, registered by us at a registration
held for said precinct on Sept 25. 1902

1902

containing Three names.

Given under our hands this the 27th day of September 1902.

J. W. Johnson
F. C. Bridger
W. L. Ferguson

I hereby certify that J. W. Johnson
F. C. Bridger & W. L. Ferguson

and whose names are signed to the foregoing certificate have this day
made oath before me to the truth of the same.

Given under my hand this the 27th day of September 1902.

W. L. Summers J. P.

Virginia Sunderland County

To-WIT:

We, the undersigned members of the Board of Registrars for Broad Run
Magisterial District in the County of Sunderland do hereby certify that the foregoing
Roll contains a true List of Voters registered by us in Senah Precinct, at a
registration held for said precinct on 17th & 18th of August

190 3

when One names were added to said Roll of Voters.

Given under our hands this the 26th day of August 190 3

J. W. Johnson

F. C. Bridger

W. S. Ferguson

I hereby certify that

J. W. Johnson

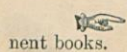
F. C. Bridger &

W. S. Ferguson

whose names are signed to the foregoing certificate, have this day
made oath before me to the truth of the same.

Given under my hand this the 26th day of August 190 3

Andrew Norman J. P.

 The above certificate must be signed and sworn to by the Board of Registrars and pasted in permanent books.

County, Virginia,

County, Virginia,

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT IN SAID COUNTY.

Roll of * Colored
(If white or colored.)Voters Registered at Linah

Precinct in

Broad RunMagisterial District, London

County, Virginia,

BY THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS FOR SAID

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT IN SAID COUNTY.

Date of Registration.	Number.	NAME.	Date of Birth.	Age. Years.	Occupation.	RESIDENCE.	LENGTH OF RESIDENCE.			Is he exempt from payment of poll tax provided he is voting?	IF NATURALIZED,		If Transferred, When and to What Precinct.
							In State.	In County.	In Precinct.		Date of Papers.	By What Court Issued.	
1911 Sept. 26/11							years	years	years	no			
1126 "	1	Jackson Blr	1845	57	Farmer	Linah	57	38	14	no			

Roll of³⁰Voters Registered at Seneca

Precinct in

Broad Run

Magisterial District, *London*

County, Virginia,

BY THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS FOR SAID

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT IN SAID COUNTY.

Roll of⁴⁶

Voters Registered at

Sinai

Precinct in

Magisterial District.

Lou doune

County Virginia

BY THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS FOR SAID

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT IN SAID COUNTY.

E. M. EPPES.

W. A. SNIDER.

EPPES & SNIDER,

OUR SPECIALTY.



PATENT FLAT-OPENING BLANK BOOKS

No. 1 Governor St., Richmond, Va.

MAKERS OF

BLANK BOOKS.

Lithographers, Engravers & Stationers.

COUNTY WORK A SPECIALTY.

Old County Records Rebound.